

RE: URGENT - TC Minister Alghabra seeking calls with ND Gov. Burgum and MO Gov. Gianforte

From: "Janes, Andy -DENVR -GR" <andy.janes@international.gc.ca>
To: "Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD" <frank.stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Cc: "Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM" <sylvain.fabi@international.gc.ca>
Date: Wed, 16 Feb 2022 21:25:44 +0000

Thanks Frank. No major concerns (other than making sure that the Minister doesn't call him "Gregory", it's just "Greg").

I like the suggestion of adding lines about how some restrictions are in the process of being lifted. That will show him that Canada is moving in the direction that he wants, even if it's not as quickly as he'd like.

The line about integrated supply chains is probably less necessary, Gianforte is well aware of that. But no harm in adding it.

I would have liked to see a little more info shared about Coutts, but that might be all there is.

No other issues from me! Thanks!
--Andy

From: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 16, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Janes, Andy -DENVR -GR <Andy.Janes@international.gc.ca>
Cc: Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - TC Minister Alghabra seeking calls with ND Gov. Burgum and MO Gov. Gianforte

Thanks Andy.

I am sharing a bootleg copy of draft key messages that I just received and which are going up the chain right now.

Let me know asap if you have concerns.

From: Janes, Andy -DENVR -GR <Andy.Janes@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 16, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Cc: Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - TC Minister Alghabra seeking calls with ND Gov. Burgum and MO Gov. Gianforte

Oh, and forgot to mention that the Governor will be joined just by Glenn Oppel – his Policy Director.

From: Janes, Andy -DENVR -GR
Sent: February 16, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Cc: Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - TC Minister Alghabra seeking calls with ND Gov. Burgum and MO Gov. Gianforte

Hi Frank,

I spoke with Sylvain and he'd like me to join the call if possible.

I've also received the contact information for the Governor's Comms team, so let me know what you find out on what the Minister's office is looking for.

Thanks,
--Andy

From: Janes, Andy -DENVR -GR
Sent: February 16, 2022 11:56 AM
To: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - TC Minister Alghabra seeking calls with ND Gov. Burgum and MO Gov. Gianforte

Hi Frank,

As requested, here is just a little more background on Gianforte and the border.

To DENVR's knowledge, Governor Gianforte has not made any public statements in support of the protests. However, he has previously been very vocal in opposition to any sort of vaccine mandate or passport in the state of Montana and has also been a consistent voice in calling for COVID border restrictions to be lifted and the border to be "reopened." Elsewhere in Montana, Senator Steve Daines and U.S. Representative Matt Rosendale (both Republicans) have made statements on social media in support of the protests and in opposition to the border vaccine mandate. Several Montana state legislators have also made similar but more private statements.

Consul General Fabi met with the Governor on the margins of a meeting of the Energy Council where they discussed Keystone XL, Buy America, softwood lumber, and the border. They have also spoken on the phone recently and had another in-person meeting scheduled in January that had to be canceled.

Please let me know if you need anything else!
--Andy

From: Janes, Andy -DENVR -GR
Sent: February 16, 2022 10:16 AM
To: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>
Cc: Green, Stephen -DENVR -GR <Stephen.Green@international.gc.ca>; Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - TC Minister Alghabra seeking calls with ND Gov. Burgum and MO Gov. Gianforte

Hello Frank,

Thanks for this. I will follow up with Governor Gianforte's team to see if any of those times work and I'll coordinate with MNPLS as well on the timing.
--Andy

From: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 16, 2022 10:06 AM

To: Loken, Martin -WSHDC -GR <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>; Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS - HOM/CDM <Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>; Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Colin -MNPLS -GR <Colin.McLeod@international.gc.ca>; Wessman, Joel -MNPLS -GR <Joel.Wessman@international.gc.ca>; Fisher, Dani -MNPLS -GR <dani.fisher@international.gc.ca>; Barratt, Adam -WSHDC -WS <Adam.Barratt@international.gc.ca>; Layton, John -WSHDC -TD <John.Layton@international.gc.ca>; Grant, Heather -WSHDC -WS <Heather.Grant@international.gc.ca>; Green, Stephen -DENVR -GR <Stephen.Green@international.gc.ca>; Janes, Andy -DENVR -GR <Andy.Janes@international.gc.ca>; Bourély, Nadia -WSHDC -TD <Nadia.Bourelly@international.gc.ca>; Kozub, Daniel -WSHDC -TD <Daniel.Kozub@international.gc.ca>

Subject: RE: URGENT - TC Minister Alghabra seeking calls with ND Gov. Burgum and MO Gov. Gianforte

Importance: High

Martin, Ariel, Sylvain, Kirsten:

Transport Canada (DM and MinO) confirmed this morning that they would like Minister Alghabra to speak with the Governors of N Dakota and Montana, hopefully tomorrow (Thursday). I don't believe we would need more than 15 minutes each.

Martin – do you think there is benefit to the Ambassador speaking with the Minister beforehand?

I have indicated to TC MinO that Ariel and Sylvain should participate on the calls given their existing relationships with governors and responsibilities for these regions. I would also be grateful for DENVR and MNPLS help in setting up these calls (and coordinating so we don't book the same time for both governors).

The Minister's EA has provided us with the following available time slots:

- Thursday, Feb 17 – 10:30-11:00, 11:15-11:45, 12:30-1:00 (EST)

I would expect an agenda along the following lines, though it could change depending on border developments:

- update on Coutts and Emerson border ports of entry, respectively;
- explaining authorities under Emergencies Act;
- next steps

I would also expect the Minister to thank Governors for their help in getting Canadian truckers vaccinated last year when Canada was having trouble procuring doses. And to be prepared to respond to comments/requests to rescind the trucker vaccination mandate.

WSHDC Comms also noted the importance of checking with the governors' comms teams regarding what, if anything, they plan to say on social media.

Please let me know if I've forgotten to take anything into account or any other key messages to suggest to the Minister.

Thank you in advance for your expert help.

Frank

P.S. Please find below a readout of the Minister's introductory call with Amb Cohen yesterday focus on border closures, supply chains, climate/EVs, ICAO accident investigation framework.

**FLASH REPORT: Meeting between Minister Alhabra and U.S. Ambassador Cohen
(Videoconference)
February 15, 2022 – 4PM**

Minister Alhabra and Ambassador Cohen started off the meeting by wishing it could be held in person. The Ambassador thanked the Minister and the Canadian government for their efforts in addressing the blockades and to get the major crossings open, including the Ambassador bridge. He recognized that Canada-US relations are very aligned and we have been able to have strong communications, and collaboration on the recent blockade matters. Ambassador took the opportunity to inquire about the situation in Coutts, AB and Emerson, MB.

In turn, the Minister agreed that both countries worked collaboratively over the past days and referred to his exchanges with Secretary Buttigieg. He shared his satisfaction of seeing the Ambassador Bridge reopen, and noted that progress is being made at other crossings. He clarified that the Coutts crossing was cleared last night and reopened at 1PM today. As for Emerson, based on his latest update, there was optimism despite the crossing not yet being opened. The Ambassador recognized the good police work regarding the Coutts situation and was relieved that violence was avoided.

The Ambassador then turned to the topic of supply chains, pointing to the recent Supply Chain Summit and inquired about the Minister's plans going forward. The Minister noted his ongoing engagement efforts at the regional and sectoral level and the naming of key individuals to a task force, who will make recommendations, based on their expertise, to the government by the Spring/Summer. s.39

s.39

s.39

He also pointed to the commitment he made with Secretary Buttigieg in Glasgow to stay connected on Supply Chain matters. The Ambassador was indeed struck by the efforts on both sides of the border and encouraged collaboration, including in the Canada-US working group on supply chains. They agreed to continue to exchange views on the topic.

Irrelevant

Irrelevant

Finally, the Minister inquired about the health and safety of the US

Embassy staff amidst the Trucker Convoy in downtown Ottawa and offered his support to the Ambassador and his staff.

They agreed to stay in touch and build on the newly formed rapport.

The call ended at 4:48pm.

(Prepared by Brigitte Joly, DG International, TC)

From: Loken, Martin -WSHDC -GR <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2022 10:45 AM
To: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>; Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS -HOM/CDM <Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca>; Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Colin -MNPLS -GR <Colin.McLeod@international.gc.ca>; Wessman, Joel -MNPLS -GR <Joel.Wessman@international.gc.ca>; Fisher, Dani -MNPLS -GR <dani.fisher@international.gc.ca>; Barratt, Adam -WSHDC -WS <Adam.Barratt@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>; Layton, John -WSHDC -TD <John.Layton@international.gc.ca>; Grant, Heather -WSHDC -WS <Heather.Grant@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - Minister Alghabra call with ND Gov. Burgum

I'm available on 202 717 5616.

Ariel will no doubt have views but for my part, unless there's an existing relationship, I'm skeptical of the value of ministerial calls to governors on this matter unless it's to present a compelling list of steps the government is taking so as to reassure the governors the blockades will be lifted rapidly, or to make a specific ask for something we can't do and they likely would be inclined to help with. As you note, they may well criticize the mandates.

Martin

From: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2022 10:35 AM
To: Loken, Martin -WSHDC -GR <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>; Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS -HOM/CDM <Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca>; Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Colin -MNPLS -GR <Colin.McLeod@international.gc.ca>; Wessman, Joel -MNPLS -GR <Joel.Wessman@international.gc.ca>; Fisher, Dani -MNPLS -GR <dani.fisher@international.gc.ca>; Barratt, Adam -WSHDC -WS <Adam.Barratt@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>; Layton, John -WSHDC -TD <John.Layton@international.gc.ca>; Grant, Heather -WSHDC -WS <Heather.Grant@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - Minister Alghabra call with ND Gov. Burgum

Martin, Ariel, do you have a minute to discuss right now?

I'm having a back and forth with TC MinO and DM on how to approach this issue.

While the original intent was to prep the scene in case we needed tow help at Emerson, that is no longer needed with the Emerg Act.

However, TC is thinking about the benefits of keeping the momentum going. Minister speaking to the US ambassador today, maybe governors tomorrow and Thursday. That way it keeps the urgency going that we care about this etc. Not just that our announcement was a big flashy move.

Only worry is putting him in front of governors who will complain about the vax mandates and are preparing to send a letter to PM and POTUS seeking to remove the trucker vax mandate.

Does MNPLS or WSHDC think the risk outweighs the benefits?

From: Loken, Martin -WSHDC -GR <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2022 10:02 AM
To: Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS -HOM/CDM <Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca>; Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>; Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Colin -MNPLS -GR <Colin.McLeod@international.gc.ca>; Wessman, Joel -MNPLS -GR <Joel.Wessman@international.gc.ca>; Fisher, Dani -MNPLS -GR <dani.fisher@international.gc.ca>; Barratt, Adam -WSHDC -WS <Adam.Barratt@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>; Layton, John -WSHDC -TD <John.Layton@international.gc.ca>; Grant, Heather -WSHDC -WS <Heather.Grant@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - Minister Alghabra call with ND Gov. Burgum

Frank – Do you have any insight on what Min Alghabra’s “ask” might be? According to PM presser yesterday the EA gives Cda authority to compel co-operation from tow truck companies in Canada, which presumably takes that piece off the table, or at least reduces importance.
Ariel may have insights as to what kind of assistance Burgum may be inclined to offer.
Martin

From: Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS -HOM/CDM <Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Colin -MNPLS -GR <Colin.McLeod@international.gc.ca>; Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>; Wessman, Joel -MNPLS -GR <Joel.Wessman@international.gc.ca>; Fisher, Dani -MNPLS -GR <dani.fisher@international.gc.ca>; Barratt, Adam -WSHDC -WS <Adam.Barratt@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>; Loken, Martin -WSHDC -GR <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>; Layton, John -WSHDC -TD <John.Layton@international.gc.ca>; Grant, Heather -WSHDC -WS <Heather.Grant@international.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: URGENT - Minister Alghabra call with ND Gov. Burgum

Kirsten,

This will be of interest to WSHDC and TC.

<https://www.kvrr.com/2022/02/15/burgum-wants-international-border-blockade-to-end/>

AD

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 14, 2022, at 22:18, Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca> wrote:

Many thanks for the update. I’ve flagged this to Frank for his follow up at TC. We’ll keep you posted and will let you know asap if this works for the minister’s schedule tomorrow.

Kirsten

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 14, 2022, at 9:16 PM, Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS -HOM/CDM
<Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca> wrote:

Kirsten,

I heard back from Governor Burgum's office. They are proposing a time of 11:00 EST tomorrow (10:00 CST). It's not much notice but his office is appreciative that we're reaching out.

AD

From: Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 13, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS -HOM/CDM <Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Colin -MNPLS -GR <Colin.McLeod@international.gc.ca>; Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>; Wessman, Joel -MNPLS -GR <Joel.Wessman@international.gc.ca>; Fisher, Dani -MNPLS -GR <dani.fisher@international.gc.ca>; Barratt, Adam -WSHDC -WS <Adam.Barratt@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>; Loken, Martin -WSHDC -GR <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>; Layton, John -WSHDC -TD <John.Layton@international.gc.ca>; Grant, Heather -WSHDC -WS <Heather.Grant@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Urgent - Minister Alghabra call with ND Gov. Burgum

Ariel,

Thanks for the quick action. I just spoke with Frank for a bit more clarification. I understand that Coutts, AB is the problem now, but there is concern that a situation at Emerson, MB could soon develop. So yes, Frank relayed to me that there is indeed interest in connecting with both Governors Gianforte and Burgum. We very much appreciate your assistance in teeing up a call with North Dakota.

Separately, I just spoke with Andy Janes in DENVR who is doing the same for Montana.

Thanks,
Kirsten

From: Delouya, Ariel -MNPLS -HOM/CDM <Ariel.Delouya@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 13, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS <Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca>
Cc: McLeod, Colin -MNPLS -GR <Colin.McLeod@international.gc.ca>; Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>; Wessman, Joel -MNPLS -GR <Joel.Wessman@international.gc.ca>; Fisher, Dani -MNPLS -GR <dani.fisher@international.gc.ca>; Barratt, Adam -WSHDC -WS <Adam.Barratt@international.gc.ca>; Fabi, Sylvain -DENVR -HOM/CDM <Sylvain.Fabi@international.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Urgent - Minister Alghabra call with ND Gov. Burgum

Hi Kirsten,

To add to Colin's message, if Minister Alghabra wants to discuss the Coutts, AB/Sweetgrass, MT crossing situation, Sylvain Fabi and the DENVR team will be better placed to help since MT falls within their territory.

However, there would be obvious value in connecting with Governor Burgum to discuss disruptions at Emerson, MB/Pembina ND, the second busiest trade corridor between Canada and the US west of the Great Lakes, facilitated by I-29, that connects Western Canada to Kansas City, and which runs through such key ND cities as Grand Forks and Fargo. It is an important artery for agricultural trade in particular. Given the disruptions there as a result of the actions of Canadian truckers, I would expect that this will be on the mind of the Burgum Administration.

Would you like us to reach out to Governor Burgum's office to tee up a potential call? MNPLS has a close relationship with the Governor's office.

AD

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 13, 2022, at 09:06, Kazlauskas, Kirsten -WSHDC -WS
<Kirsten.Kazlauskas@international.gc.ca> wrote:

Good morning,

TC Minister Alghabra is seeking help – on an urgent basis – **to arrange a call with North Dakota Governor Burgum** to discuss the border situation at Coutts, AB and to seek assistance.

Note that I have also reached out to CG Fabi in Denver regarding a parallel request for MT Gov. Gianforte.

I have looped in Frank Stendardo, WSHDC's transport counsellor, who is the primary point of contact for the request and is currently liaising with TC for available scheduling windows and other details. Grateful for your immediate assistance in helping Frank set up this call for the minister. If I can provide additional support, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 202-391-2450.

Best,
Kirsten

Kirsten Kazlauskas

Intergovernmental Affairs | Embassy of Canada, Washington, D.C.
Affaires intergouvernementales | Ambassade du Canada, Washington, D.C.
t: 202 682-7717 c. 202 391-2450
kirsten.kazlauskas@international.gc.ca

